

December 23, 2022

Seasons Greetings, EGF Families and Staff Members,

It is hard to believe the last official school day of 2022 has passed and 2023 is right around the corner! The years seem to go by quickly as I grow older and there are times when I just need to sit back and take it all in. Please review the following information and feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

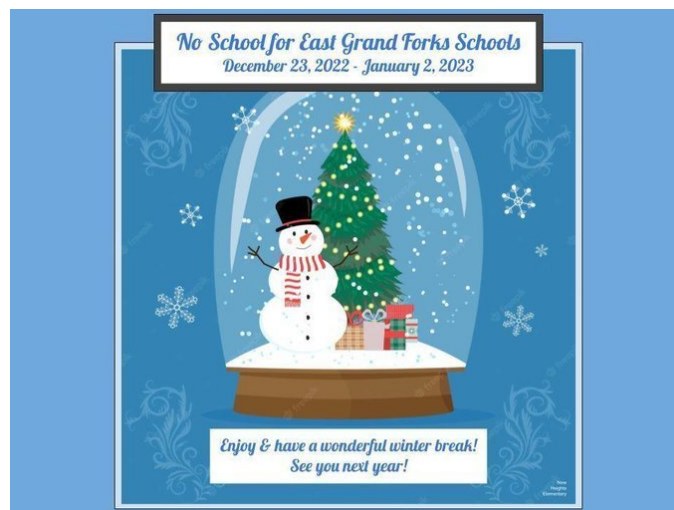
Thank you!

Mike Kolness

EGF Superintendent of Schools

School District Updates

Winter Break Schedule - This is a friendly reminder that the 2022-23 Winter Break at EGF ISD 595 started today (Friday, December 23, 2022) and runs through Monday, January 2, 2023. School will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2023. ENJOY the break!



End of the First Semester - It is hard to believe the end of the first semester of the 2022-23 school year is only a few weeks away! The last day of the semester will be Friday, January 13, 2023 and there will be NO SCHOOL for students on Monday, January 16, 2023. Get ready to start heading downhill very soon!

Immediate Job Openings - EGF ISD 595 has immediate openings for food service workers, paraprofessionals, and substitute teachers. Please go to the [EGF Human Resources Site](#) to find more information about the positions. Please consider joining our team! THANK YOU!

THANK YOU for a job well done - A huge “THANK YOU” goes out to school board members Matt Foss (4 yrs) and Tom Piche (8 hrs) for the excellent leadership provided during their terms on the EGF ISD 595 Board of Education! They did a super job of serving the students, staff, and community!



United Activities, Special Olympics & Sled Hockey - Unified Schools begin with [Special Olympics Unified Sports®](#) to build inclusive school communities for young people of all abilities. This programming creates an environment where everyone feels welcome, valued, and included both in school and in their local community. Many EGF SH staff members and students have been actively participating in several activities the last few weeks and it is exciting! EGF SH is working to become a “Unified School” and recently hosted a kickoff event in late November! GREAT JOB!



Music Concerts - Numerous musical concerts have taken place throughout the school district the last few weeks and I would like to CONGRATULATE all of the directors and students! They were awesome!



Stick it to Cancer & Teddy Bear Toss - The Green Wave hockey teams recently participated in two fundraisers to support the fight against cancer. GREAT JOB, hockey players, coaches, and fans!!



Special Fall Football Awards - CONGRATULATIONS to the Green Wave Football Team earning the “Gold Academic Award” and having the top team GPA in Class 3A Football! GREAT JOB, Green Wave football players and coaches! CONGRATULATIONS to Green Wave Senior Caleb Zebdlik on being selected to play in the All-Star Football Game at US Bank Stadium earlier this month! AWESOME JOB!

3A - TEAM ACADEMIC ALL-STATE		
GOLD	East Grand Forks	3.52
GOLD	Albany Area	3.50
GOLD	Mora	3.42
GOLD	Zumbrota-Mazeppa	3.38
GOLD	Holy Family Catholic	3.35
GOLD	St. Cloud Cathedral	3.35
GOLD	Milaca	3.30
GOLD	Lake City	3.29
GOLD	Plainview-Elgin-Millville	3.27
SILVER	St. Cloud Cathedral	3.25
SILVER	Watertown-Mayer	3.22
SILVER	Dassel-Cokato	3.22
SILVER	Worthington	3.19



Students in Action - THANK YOU to everyone who contributed the following pictures! It is really fun to see our students actively engaged in numerous activities and in the classroom!





EGF Education Foundation Grant Recipients - The EGF Education Foundation awarded grants totalling **\$26,562.03** to seventeen members of the EGF staff for various projects that will impact students across many grade levels during the December 12th school board meeting. The Foundation has been awarding grants since 2010 and the students, staff and school district have been positively impacted by all of them. A huge “THANK YOU” goes out to the donors and EGF Education Foundation Board for all of their efforts! They are truly making a difference! Congratulations to the latest grant recipients!

- Kelly Zabriskie, a District School Readiness Instructor: Submitted a grant entitled “Diversity in the Classroom” to purchase materials representing different cultures at the preschool level. She was awarded full support in the amount of \$1,809.88.
- Rachel Hemsing, a Special Education Instructor at New Heights: Submitted a grant for noise canceling headphones. She was awarded full support in the amount of \$300.
- Keeley Iverson, a Special Education Instructor at New Heights: Submitted a grant for sensory box items. She was awarded full support in the amount of \$275.
- Melissa Kroetsch (Assistant Principal), Sherry Murphy, and Katie Kleven (Counseling Staff): Submitted a grant entitled “Wave of Calm” room in order to create a safe space for students to regulate their minds and bodies. They were awarded full support in the amount of \$650.00.
- Chelsey Mattison, a Special Education Instructor at New Heights: Submitted a grant for fidgets and timers. She was awarded full support in the amount of \$300.
- Katie Nelson on behalf of the entire 7 sections of kindergarten at New Heights: Submitted a grant for Handwriting without Tears Curricular Manipulatives. She was awarded full support in the amount of \$678.
- Krystyna Freeman on behalf of the entire 7 sections of 5th grade at South Point: Submitted a grant for Rube Goldberg Machines which will allow for students to get hands-on experience with force, motion, simple machines, and the engineering process. She was awarded full support in the amount of \$1539.09.
- Amy Gumto on behalf of the entire 7 sections of 3rd grade at South Point: Submitted a grant for a virtual class and tour of the Minnesota Zoo led by a naturalist and aligning with the MN State Science Standards. She was awarded full support in the amount of \$1400.
- Livia Zitzow on behalf of the entirety of South Point Elementary: Submitted a grant for an inflatable touring planetarium to come to South Point so students can take a tour of the solar system, learning about Greek Mythology, seasonal night skies, and the stars of the Northern Hemisphere. She was awarded full support in the amount of \$1,495.
- Hannah Driscoll, Family and Consumer Science Instructor at Central Middle School: Submitted a grant to purchase a hydroponic garden in order to teach the growing process and growing their own produce and using that produce in recipes. She was awarded full support in the amount of \$319.95.

- Kristine Gruenberg (CMS English Arts Instructor) and Kari Armstrong (South Point Librarian): Submitted a grant for graphic novels for the CMS Library in order to provide good quality literature and appealing titles for teens. They were awarded full support in the amount of \$1,500.
- Jenny Hovde (Paraprofessional and CMS Library Staff Member) along with Kristine Gruenberg (CMS Library Staff): Submitted a grant entitled “Drawing Students into the Library – Literally and Metaphorically.” They along with Mark Lundberg (CMS Art Instructor) and CMS students hope to create a revitalized library space. They were awarded full support in the amount of \$631.59.
- Jenny Loer, CMS Band Director: Submitted a grant for funds to purchase an Intermediate Baritone Saxophone for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade band students to utilize. She was awarded full funds in the amount of \$5425.
- Jill Walter (Principal of CMS) along with Jared Sanger (Senior High Woods Class Instructor): Submitted a grant for CMS benches to be placed outside of CMS as a welcoming and inviting entrance space for years to come. They were awarded full support in the amount of \$1338.52. This grant has also been earmarked for financial backing from the EGF Class of 1973 who will be hosting their 50th class reunion next fall.
- Jessica Gennett on behalf of the Senior High School Visual Arts Department: Submitted a grant entitled “Exploring the World of Art Canvases.” She was awarded full support in the amount of \$1000.
- Donovan Hanson, Grades 9-12 Vocal Music Instructor: Submitted a grant to Up-grade Theatre Lighting in the Senior High Performing Art Center. He was awarded 30% of the total cost of the project in the amount of \$5,400.
- Tracey Heisler on behalf of the 11th grade English Department: Submitted a grant for “Alignment of the English Curriculum.” She was awarded full support in the amount of \$2000.

Together we are Better!



Winter Weather & Storm Days - Mother Nature has definitely impacted our region this school year and we have already used three storm or elearning days. In a perfect world, the snow would quit falling and winds would be minimal. However, we have quite a bit of snow on the ground and at least 2-3 months of winter remaining. Student/staff safety is always on the minds of district leaders and travel conditions may vary quite a bit in different parts of the school district. Please know that if Mother Nature is not cooperative in the future and travel conditions are not favorable, district leaders will use a balance of the storm make-up day and elearning day options. The District has also ordered ten school buses like the one in the following photo (just kidding). A big "THANK YOU" goes out to the EGF maintenance team members who have been working throughout many nights moving snow at all of the buildings, as well as the bus drivers who face challenging road conditions and work hard to keep our students safe on their way to and from school.



Happy Holidays from the Kolness Family!

